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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF

HELENA STAAB, R.N. License # NR 13802200

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent is a registered nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
- 2. On or about October 3, 2011 respondent was arrested and charged with resisting arrest and attempting to cause bodily injury. She was convicted of attempting to cause bodily injury to another on January 27, 2012, sentenced to one day confinement, and to pay a total of \$175.00 in fine and assessments. The conduct that resulted in the conviction involved respondent's aggressive response to officers following a 911 call placed when respondent's fiancé was unable to wake her.

 Respondent attributed the aggressive response to a reaction to prescribed medications.
 - 3. On or about June 2, 2012, respondent allegedly was found to have

medication in her pocket while employed as a nurse on the night shift of Cape Regional Medical Center and was referred for screening. She tested positive for opiates and marijuana.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. The conduct underlying respondent's conviction for attempting to cause bodily injury to another relates adversely to nursing within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).
- 2. Respondent's attribution of her conduct to a reaction to prescribed medication, and the positive results of the drug screening, strongly indicate that respondent may be impaired within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(i), warranting

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of
Discipline was entered on October 16, 2012, provisionally imposing a public reprimand
for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f), and ordering respondent to undergo a
comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of
the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP) within thirty (30) days of
the filing of a Final Order of Discipline in this matter. A copy of the Provisional Order
was forwarded to respondent at her address of record by certified and regular mail. The
Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th
business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of
the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for
modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings
and conclusions should be modified or dismissed, and submitting any and all
documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration
and reasons therefor.

Although the record reflects that the certified mailing of the order was received on October 20, 2012, and the regular mailing of the order was not returned, no response has been received to date. The Board considered this matter and determined that service had been effected, inasmuch as the mailings of the Provisional Order had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board. The Board further determined that inasmuch as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, further proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 10 th day of December, 2012, ORDERED that:

- 1. A public reprimand is hereby imposed upon respondent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f).
- 2. Respondent is ordered, within 30 days of the filing of a Final Order of Discipline in this matter, arrange to undergo a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP). Respondent shall arrange to have the results of this evaluation forwarded to the Board within thirty (30) days of the evaluation. This timeframe is subject to revision only if authorized by RAMP in writing.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN

Board President